nation as on 30-4-95 is given below.

Name of the distributor	No. of existing customers	Waiting list
Choudhari Gas Agency, Haldwani . . .	8022	3155
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Haldwani .	14798	5616
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Almora . .	10754	2587
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Nainital . .	16150	4639
Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Ranikhet . .	9169	4010

(b) The Oil Companies have been given instructions to clear the entire waiting list (as on 1-4-1995) *in* areas above 4500 ft. attitude during 1995-96, and 50 per cent of the waiting list (as on 1-4-1995) in areas between 2000 to 4500 ft. during 1995-96 and the remaining 50 per cent during 1996-97.

(c). Some areas of Kumaon Hills are being provided with LPG through outers of Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam serving as extension points.

The other places in hill districts of Kumaon region where LPG facilities are available are Didihat, Kashipur, Rudrapur, Tanakpur, Khatima, Ramnagar, Lohaghat Dharchula, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Kichha and Pantnagar.

Consignment Agents and Distributors Appointed by M/s. Balmer Lawrie (India) Limited

$068. SHRI *P.* Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLIEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names and the locations of the consignment agents and distributors appointed by M/s. Balmer Lawrie (India) Limited, a Government undertaking for market-ins/distribution of petroleum products, and the areas of their juris-diction individually, zone-wise;

(b) the names and details of locations which are lying vacant and unrepresented and the area yet to be covered by such locations, indiviuu-ally; and

(c) the details of the back up support to be given to the consignment agents and distributors by the company for sales promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE. MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NAURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited only processes greases and lubricants and then marketing is done by a joint venture company, which operates as a private company, namely, Balmer Lawrie FUCHS Limited, a joint venture between Balmer Lawrie and Co. Limited and FUCHS Petrolubes of Germany, with equal equity participation. As such, all consignment agents and distributors are appointed by Balmer Lawrie FUCHS Limited, according to their business requirements.

Setting up of Processing/Refining *units* based on Natural Gas

8069. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are allowing the small scale/large scale/

medium scale manufacturers to set up their processing/refining units, based upon natural gas, with a view to fully utilise these resources;

(b). if so, what is the rate being charged for the allotment of natural gas;

(c) whether Government have set ,up some consulting agency to give accessary consultation regarding setting up of these units or some other private consulting agencies are providing these services; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consumer price of natural gas in the North Eastern States is Rs. 1000 per thousand cusmtrs. In the rest of the country the price is Rs. 1850 per thousand cu. mtrs.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol Pumps/SKO D alership and LPG Disiibutorship on Compassionate Grounds

8070. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names and addresses of allottees ot petrol pumps/ SKO dealerships and LPG distributorship on compassionate ground*, are kept confidential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the names and addresses of beneficiaries who were allotted dealerships mentioned in part (a) above, during the last three years;

(d) whether Government are deciding to liberalise the marketing of HSD and lubricants: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Time and efforts involved in collection and compilation of requisite data will not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. The number of allottees of retail outlets, SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships on compassionate grounds ruin during the last three years is as follows:

	RO	LPG	SKO-LDO
1992-93	19	64	30
1993-94	55	57	11
1994-95	78	61	16

(d) and (e) The import of lubricants and lube oil base stocks has been decanalised and private parties including foreign oil companies are free to import and market these products. There is no proposal at present to deregulate retail marketing of MS and HSD.